

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 CCO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 /031 R

DRAFTED BY USOAS:JWFORD:FJMCNEIL:DR

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S/S - MR. EALUM

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TO AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035755

TOSEC 349

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS:OCON, OASGA

SUBJECT:ACTION MEMORANDUM-OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WASHINGTON

(S/S NO.7503356)

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ROGERS

1. UPCOMING OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY(OASGA) HAS AGENDA OF 34 ITEMS, PRECIOUS FEW OF WHICH SHOULD COMMAND THE ATTENTION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS.

2. MOST MINISTERS WILL RETURN HOME AFTER FIRST FEW DAYS.

3. I EXPECT YOU WILL AGREE THAT WE OUGHT TO CLEAR OUT AS MUCH OF THE ROUTINE GARBAGE AS POSSIBLE, MINIMIZE THE INCENTIVES FOR HOME-CONSUMPTION SPEECHES AND PERMIT THE MINISTERS TO DEVOTE THEIR TIME TO MATTERS OF CONSEQUENCE BEHIND CLOSED DOORS. IF THIS OCCURS, THE OASGA WILL BEGIN TO TAKE ON SOME OF THE CHARACTERISTICS OF THE DIALOGUE. WE THEREFORE NEED TO APPROACH THE MATTER WITH CONFIDENTIAL

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TACT, SINCE WE WANT TO AVOID ANY APPEARANCE THAT THE BA

MEETING IS DEAD.

4. WE ALSO HAVE TO CONSIDER THE EXTENT OF INTRUSION OF THE FOREIGN MINISTERS ON YOUR SCHEDULE, AND THE POSSIBILITY OF SOCIAL EVENTS, INCLUDING THE WHITE HOUSE.

5. BILL MAILLIARD AND I PROPOSE:

A. AFTER FIRST TOUCHING BASE WITH VIGNES, WE SUGGEST TO THE LATINS THAT THE SECOND DAY OF THE ASSEMBLY(AS NOW SCHEDULED, APRIL 17) BE SET ASIDE FOR INFORMAL CLOSED-DOOR SESSIONS ON THE MAJOR ITEMS ON THE AGENDA, INCLUDING OAS REFORM AND THE TRADE ACT. CUBA COULD ALSO BE DISCUSSED, BUT WE WOULD NOT RAISE THAT IN OUR MESSAGE. (IF YOU AUTHORIZE THIS APPROACH, WE WOULD PREPARE LETTERS FROM YOU TO THE FOREIGN MINISTERS.)

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

B. AUTHORIZE US TO TELL PANAMA WE SUPPORT ITS PROPOSAL TO STRIKE THE "GENERAL DEBATE" (SPEECHES DESIGNED SOLELY FOR HOME CONSUMPTION) FROM THE AGENDA. THE EFFECT WOULD BE TO REDUCE SPEECHIFYING -- BUT NOT END IT.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

C. AUTHORIZE US TO BEGIN PLANNING FOR YOU TO HOST A LUNCH FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTERS, PREFERABLY ON THE SAME DAY AS THE PRIVATE SESSION, IF THAT TAKES PLACE.

APPROVE DISAPPROVE

D. AUTHORIZE US TO ASK THE WHITE HOUSE TO PLAN SUITABLE SOCIAL EVENT FOR THE FOREIGN MINISTERS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC 349
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 FEB 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975STATE035755
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JWFORF:FJMCNEIL:DR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750056-0227
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750238/aaaabhx.cel
Line Count: 94
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CTION MEMORANDUM-OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY, WASHINGTON (S/S NO.7503356)
TAGS: OCON, OAS
To: BONN
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006